

Mr. Bryan's Course

However much the St. Louis convention may have differed with William Jennings Bryan concerning certain policies to be adopted or discarded as issues by the democratic party, there is no mistaking the friendly temper of the great quadriennial gathering of democrats toward Mr. Bryan personally.

The presidential standard bearer of the democracy in two brilliant but disastrous campaigns went to St. Louis with the knowledge that he had a losing fight before him. Four years before, so complete was his mastery, the Kansas City convention was sentimentally constrained to do his will against its calmer judgment, today a large majority of his fellow partisans, in national convention assembled, were eager to compass his political undoing in order that the party might get abreast of the progress of events.

Not since the days of Henry Clay, that other peerless commoner, has partisan opprobrium pursued a political leader as Mr. Bryan has been pursued. The shield of the silver knight did not quail under the battle-ax blows of the party enemy. It was not republican assault that tried him sorest. It was enemies from within that hemmed the Man of the Cross of Gold about like a stag at bay—democrats who held no party ties as binding against their own minority will. Against them the courageous Nebraskan stood his ground in two bitter campaigns, waging a fight than which no man could have waged a better, and losing with his escutcheon unsullied. The blows taken and given in fair political battle were many and hard, but they were as nothing to the blows from behind and to the avalanche of smart raillery that descended from all sides. Mr. Bryan became a gibe in the mouths of men who were not capable of appreciating the due of heroism vanquished.

The first day of the St. Louis convention Mr. Bryan sat with immobile face while the rafters rang with cheers for other names than his. The second day he walked down the aisle to become the object of an even greater ovation. We have heard of the ingratitude of republics. Perhaps Mr. Bryan was ready to believe in the ingratitude of parties. The roar of that cataract of human voices paying tribute to his personality and his brilliant past leadership, notwithstanding he was believed to have come to St. Louis as an obstructionist and malcontent, was a remarkable incident. With such a tribute ringing in his ears, the recipient must have imbibed the contagious spirit of the occasion—the spirit of harmony based on honorable compromise.

Mr. Bryan, whose alleged determination to bolt had been loudly heralded by the republican press and the element that constituted itself a republican aid society when he was the standard bearer of democracy, fought manfully for his political opinions in the committee on resolutions, as was his right. Unable to get what he contended for, he evinced a willingness to meet his opponents half way in an effort to compromise their differences. As a member of the committee, he might have brought in a minority report and precipitated an injurious conflict of ideas upon the floor of the convention. Instead, a platform was unanimously reported from the committee and adopted without an adverse vote in the convention.

In that historic all-night scene following the adoption of the platform, when democracy's peerless orator stood up for a final test of strength against the overwhelming odds presented in Parker's nomination, the

convention was certain of his loyalty. It did not need his assurance to the reporters, after adjournment, that he would cast his vote for the ticket, to assure his fellow delegates that he would be found in the ranks when the great political battle was on. He had already given proof of the true quality of his party mettle.

His action has made possible complete democratic harmony.

Mr. Bryan won at St. Louis the good opinion of all democrats, and his manly action was calculated to heap coals of fire on the heads of men in the party who had not hesitated to do, with less provocation, what the Nebraskan scorned to do. For this he deserves honor and credit. He could not rule, but he would not ruin. He bowed, as all regular democrats must, to the will of the majority formally expressed, and he bowed gracefully and manfully. His conduct at St. Louis excites admiration and adds to his well-earned fame. There are large opportunities of leadership still in store for Mr. Bryan in the democratic party.

We look to see Mr. Bryan give the

platform and ticket a hearty, vote-making support by pen and word of mouth. His services are needed in the ranks this year and we believe he will fulfill every promise of his admirable conduct at St. Louis.—Atlanta Constitution.

The "Navy League's" Claims

The national peace and honor must henceforth depend upon the navy. The navy depends upon congress and congress depends upon the people. The Navy league, therefore, proposes to educate the people in naval affairs and to enlist their support in behalf of a policy which shall insure more ships, more officers and men with better training for both, and a great naval reserve composed of hardy, patriotic young men who can be instantly called to the nation's defense in time of need.

The German Navy league, since it was organized in April, 1898, has acquired a membership of more than 700,000, with branches in every town and hamlet in the empire. The result of the educational work carried on through these agencies is that the

German people, who, six years ago, never dreamed of a great sea power for the empire, are today as one man in support of a vigorous policy of naval expansion.

In remote inland communities, where warships were unheard of things a few years ago, the people now regard with pride and growing intelligence the story of Germany's splendid squadrons. The German boy reads the official bulletin of the German Navy league; his hat bears a ribbon inscribed with the league's insignia; his mother and sisters wear earrings and other trinkets similarly adorned—and all these articles are sources of income to the central fund, which means the addition of new and mighty battleships to the German fleets. During the year 1901 the German Navy league gained 350,000 new members, many of them recruited in the United States.

It distributed millions of books and pamphlets, placed colored pictures of German cruisers in more than 20,000 schools, provided thousands of free lectures, organized 3,000 conferences and placed microscopic views in 5,000 railway stations—all with the single



YOU CAN SEE THE WORLD'S FAIR FOR 10 Cts.

EVER on the alert to please our present readers, and to secure new ones, we have arranged for the special right to distribute within the field of our circulation "The Universal Exposition Art Albums." The work comprises twenty albums, published weekly, and containing sixteen engravings, 8x10 inches, with masterful descriptions by the well-known author and lecturer, Frank G. Tyrrell. The works are printed on heavy enameled paper, and bound in heavy gray felt covers, thus each album is a handsome art work complete in itself. The series will constitute a pictorial history of this Hundred Million Dollar World's Fair, the greatest fair the world has ever known really a world in itself, with its magnificent architecture and lagoons, its savage tribes and their customs, its wonderful vistas and waterways and THE PIKE—the frivolous and fascinating PIKE with its two miles of side shows, and a thousand other attractions; thus the albums possess a fascinating interest and educational value for every member of the family who visits St. Louis, and especially for those who do not.

"THE UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION ART ALBUMS."

These superb albums should be in every American home, and we have arranged to place them within the reach of our readers in two ways so that every one may have them.

Timely
Educational

THE WONDERS AND GLORIES OF THE GREAT WORLD'S FAIR.
PUBLISHED IN ARTISTIC FORM FOR PERMANENT PRESERVATION.

Handsome
Durable

CASH OFFER

The regular price of each Album is 25 Cents. In order to give our readers every opportunity to know this greatest of World's Fairs, we have arranged to mail them direct to the subscribers' homes for the nominal sum of 10 Cents each, or \$2.00 for the set of 20 albums, which is actual cost to us, plus expense of mailing.

Send in Your Order Now

SUBSCRIPTION OFFER.

FREE FOR A LITTLE EFFORT

Send subscriptions to THE COMMONER, (one of which may be your own renewal), and we will forward you FREE, as issued, THE UNIVERSAL ART ALBUMS, as follows:

For 1 subscription and \$1.00 to pay for same, we send you FREE any 3 of the 20 Albums.
For 2 subscriptions and \$2.00 to pay for same, we send you FREE any 6 Albums.
For 3 subscriptions and \$3.00 to pay for same, we send you FREE any 9 Albums.
For 4 subscriptions and \$4.00 to pay for same, we send you FREE any 12 Albums.
For 5 subscriptions and \$5.00 to pay for same, we send you FREE any 15 Albums.
For 6 subscriptions and \$6.00 to pay for same, we send you FREE the Entire Series of 20 Albums.

Or, you may send subscriptions for a portion of the series and cash at the rate of only 10 cents an Album for the remainder of the series, so you can see how easy it is to secure the entire work, which you will find of vast interest and rare value for personal possession and study.

... ALBUM I CONTAINS ...

Electricity Building
In Front of Grand Basin
National Commission
De Smet Bridge
Philippine Agricultural Bldg.

Military Parade
Government Life Savers
Japanese Garden
Iowa Building
Agricultural Building

Japanese Commission
Pike Parade
Igorote Dance
U. S. Government Building
Cascades (Double Page.)

ADDRESS

The Commoner,

Lincoln, Neb.